

## Goessel, Kathryn M -FS

---

**From:** Dunlap, Karen E -FS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 24, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** Goessel, Kathryn M -FS  
**Cc:** Rhodes, Mardi J -FS  
**Subject:** FW: COMMENTS: Panther Creek Geothermal Project

Piper,  
Here is a comment on your Geothermal project

Karen E. Dunlap  
Forest Environmental Coordinator  
Forest Climate Change Coordinator  
Salmon-Challis National Forest  
1206 S. Challis Street  
Salmon, Idaho 83467  
208-756-5192 (phone)  
208-756-5555 (fax)  
[kdunlap@fs.fed.us](mailto:kdunlap@fs.fed.us)  
Planning on the FSWeb

-----Original Message-----

From: Rhodes, Mardi J -FS  
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 7:46 AM  
To: Dunlap, Karen E -FS  
Subject: FW: COMMENTS: Panther Creek Geothermal Project

I don't know where this is supposed to go...any help would be appreciated. Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: becca and bill [<mailto:beccaandbill@peoplepc.com>]  
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 4:27 PM  
To: Rhodes, Mardi J -FS  
Subject: COMMENTS: Panther Creek Geothermal Project

Hello

I am sending you these comments, as I had them returned 2 times from the email address I read in the paper. The Challis NF gave me your email as a person who could forward (email) or print out and submit my comments for me.

THANKS  
Rebecca Wiegand  
contact info below

-----

I would like to comment on your proposal to develop a 9 square mile area around the Panther Creek Hot Springs into a Geothermal Energy area.

First of all, this is not an appropriate location to develop for this use. I have personally used the Panther hot springs for going on 20 years, and know it well. It is a unique area for recreationists. I have soaked in the old pool before the mud slide event, and I have sweated in the sweat lodge on many occasions, going back to 1994. This area is known and loved by generations of Idahoans. To set aside 9 square miles and this unique resource, to develop it and then remove it from the areas that the average person can enjoy would be a real loss.

It also is an important area culturally to the native Idahoans, as it has been used literally for thousands of years. I don't believe you have done your groundwork with the tribe. They prevented some cement being used to develop the hot springs along the middle fork of the payette river (above Crouch) a few summers ago. In that circumstance, the springs would not have been taken out of public use or had any kind of significant development, and they protested the development under "spiritual importance." This project would destroy the source of the hot spring and create a 9 square mile area that would be off limits to the public. This would be a much more serious mis-use of the resource, and I am wondering what the tribe has to say about your proposal.

I am also upset by the idea of doing a non-competitive lease. Why would that even be considered? I hear so much about the federal deficit and the freeloaders on food stamps. If a company thinks they can make money off of a federal resource, and this resource is going to be taken away from the people that have been enjoying it, it should be at a high cost lease, not a non-competitive lease.

In conclusion, there are a number of equally scalding geothermal areas located in the central oregon desert that are on both public and private lands that would be much more appropriate for this kind of project. This proposal would be both a waste of our public lands and public funds.

Rebecca Wiegand  
14 Sellman Dr  
Lowman, Id 83637  
208 259-3793

---

PeoplePC Online  
A better way to Internet  
<http://www.peoplepc.com>